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Communist China: Indications that Liu Shao-chi may soon be formally brought down suggest that the Cultural Revolution is entering a new phase.

Liu, number two man in the party until last August and still officially chief of state, was the target of an all-day rally in Peking on 2 April. According to official accounts of the event, "hundreds of thousands" of demonstrators assembled outside the gate of the Forbidden City and marched through Peking shouting "down with the biggest power holder of the party taking the capitalist road." Foreign newsmen report that the mob chanted "down with Liu Shao-chi."

The rally followed broadcasts on 30 March of Red Flag and People's Daily articles denouncing Liu's book How To Be A Good Communist and warning people not to be "tricked" by this work, once hailed as a key party document. The articles called for a campaign to "thoroughly criticize and repudiate" the book. Although Liu has been under repeated attack in posters and Red Guard newspapers since last fall and was reportedly forced publicly to abase himself in late 1966, until now he has not been under direct fire from official central committee publications.

A major People's Daily article by Cultural Revolution publicist Chi Pen-yu, as broadcast on 2 April, demanded that the "handful of counterrevolutionary revisionists" must be overthrown and that the "top party person in authority taking the capitalist road"--an unmistakable reference to Liu--must be removed and "made to stand aside." This might take place on 4 April. Correspondents in Peking report that the city is plastered with posters announcing another giant rally to be held on that day for the purpose of denouncing Liu.

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The new and harsher attacks on Liu, which may soon be extended to other major figures who have been under fire, have, however, been accompanied by signs that the Cultural Revolution is continuing to lose velocity. Posters appearing in Peking on 31 March announced the imminent formation of a "revolutionary committee" to serve as a new government apparatus for the city--a step which has been in prospect for several weeks.

On 30 March, Urumchi radio revealed that the top leadership in Sinkiang has remained largely intact. Wang En-mao, first secretary and military commander of the region, who has been severely attacked was present at a rally on 28 March and identified in all his old positions. Three other important officials from the previous administration were also identified in their old jobs.

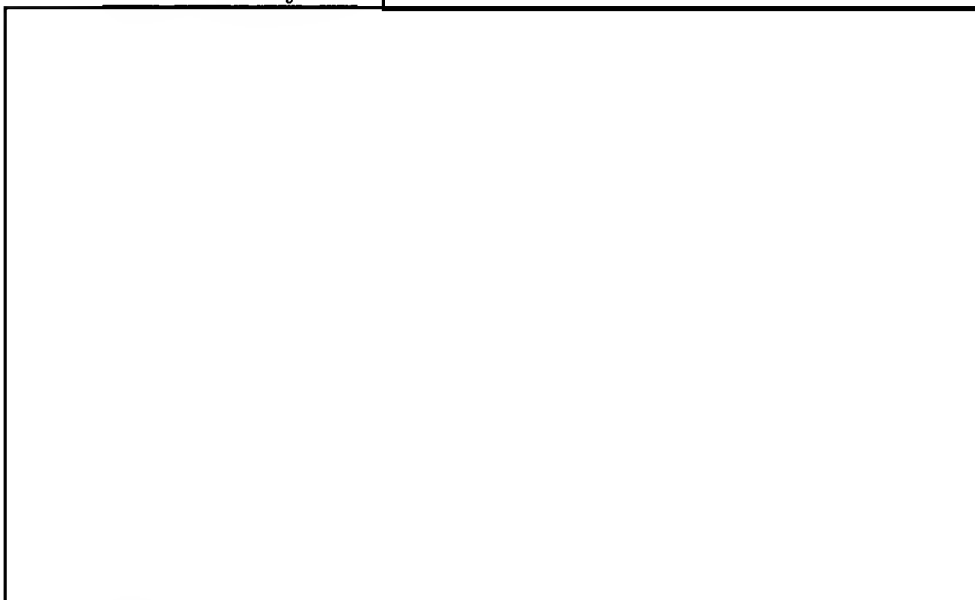
Newspapers put out by militant Red Guard organizations in Peking during the past few days report another move toward restoration of normalcy. According to these publications, party committees have been reinstated in the central ministries and agencies of the State Council, and "rebel" groups in these organizations have been stripped of power. Red Guard posters indicate that the top men in nearly all of the ministries have survived despite the fact that most have been under severe attack. Chou En-lai called in mid-February for re-establishment of party committees in various government ministries.

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USSR-Malaysia:



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Malaysia does not presently have diplomatic ties with any Communist country, but there are several incentives for a change of policy. The Soviet Union is now a major importer of Malaysian rubber, and the Communist nations comprise a significant market for Malaysia's rubber at a time when world market prices are falling. Moreover, the Malaysians may also believe that diplomatic ties with Moscow would improve their image among nonaligned nations who have been critical of Kuala Lumpur's Western orientation.

The USSR has been making a determined effort to establish contacts in Far Eastern countries where it has not traditionally been active. Moscow established a trade office in Singapore in 1966 and is also seeking a trade agreement with the Philippines.

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France - Somali Republic: The French have obtained Ethiopian agreement to absorb some 5,000 Somalians the French regard as being in French Somaliland illegally. The French turned to Ethiopia only after Mogadiscio had refused their offer to return the illegal immigrants at a graduated pace. This move, however, will aggravate French relations with the Somali Republic and could lead Mogadiscio to a diplomatic break with Paris. Although Mogadiscio earlier had decided against a break, domestic pressure for such a move may now be revived and intensified.

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